

# SUPPORT ESTABLISHING A RESTORATION CENTER IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY

The **Restoration Center** is a comprehensive, insurance-blind jail diversion and treatment facility for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

## 24/7 Staffing

- ⇒ Crisis behavioral health clinicians
- ⇒ RNs/LPNs
- ⇒ EMTs

## Drop-off Ability

for police officers

## Integrated Services

including but not limited to:

- ⇒ Detox
- ⇒ Crisis Psychiatric care
- ⇒ Respite Beds
- ⇒ Recovery coaches
- ⇒ Peer Support
- ⇒ Medical Clearance

## Connections

to longer-term community supports, such as:

- ⇒ Substance Use Services
- ⇒ Mental Health Services
- ⇒ Job Training
- ⇒ Housing Resources
- ⇒ Other Resources

Disproportionate arrest and incarceration of individuals with behavioral health conditions is an urgent problem:



Approximately **25%** of correctional inmates and up to **50%** of county jail and house of correction detainees and inmates are receiving mental health services in the Commonwealth



Approximately **14%** of male and **30%** of female inmates in Massachusetts have serious mental illness, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression.



Individuals with mental illness are disproportionately incarcerated for minor “quality of life” offenses, such as trespassing and public intoxication, yet experience longer stays.

Police officers’ primary option for diverting individuals with behavioral health conditions from arrest and connecting them to services is a trip to the Emergency Department (EDs). EDs are poorly equipped to meet the needs of individuals in behavioral health crisis or the responding officers.



EDs are often chaotic environments that can escalate psychiatric conditions



Behavioral health patients wait hours before seeing a mental health or addictions clinician who can evaluate their needs



Behavioral health patients wait **3x** longer for transfer to inpatient beds than medical or surgical patients



Crucial background information from responding officers is often lost in the shuffle of wait times and staff transfers, leaving evaluating clinicians less able to make appropriate treatment recommendations



Individuals who do not meet criteria for an inpatient unit often end up released to the community and left on their own to access follow-up care

Although the Commonwealth has a wide range of excellent mental health resources, including the Emergency Services Programs (ESPs), police officers report barriers to accessing these services due to insurance issues, admission criteria, and staffing limitations. **The Restoration Center model** provides an innovative and cost-efficient alternative to arrests and EDs, promotes individual recovery, and saves public funds by reducing arrest and jail time, lowering recidivism rates, and bypassing costly emergency room services.

# THE RESTORATION CENTER MODEL: BEXAR COUNTY, TX

Bexar County, Texas provides a successful and well-evaluated model for the proposed center. For more than 10 years, the Bexar County model has been regarded as the most effective early intercept diversion and treatment program in the country.

**More than 18,000 people** in San Antonio now pass through the Restoration Center each year.

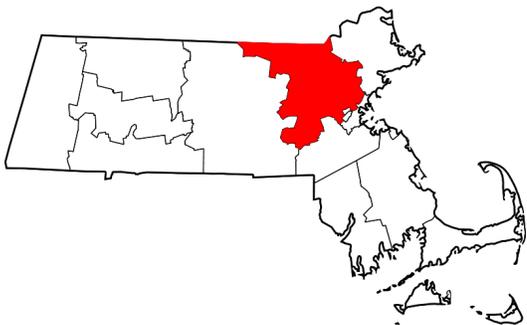


Since its inception in 2003, the Bexar County model has:

- ⇒ Saved taxpayers over **\$50 million**
- ⇒ Diverted over **17,000 people** from jails and emergency rooms
- ⇒ Trained over **2,600 law enforcements officers** in the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team Training model
- ⇒ Reduced overcrowding in the Bexar County Jail from over-capacity to **500 empty beds**

## WHY MIDDLESEX COUNTY?

- **Key police departments** in Middlesex County are leaders in Crisis Intervention Team training and implementation for law enforcement, including Cambridge, Somerville, Belmont, Malden, Framingham and Ashland, among others.
- **The Sheriff of Middlesex County**, who runs the jail and House of Correction, is a leader in mental health treatment and a close ally of NAMI Mass.
- **The Middlesex County District Attorney's office** is committed to early diversion and has maintained a juvenile diversion project for several years.



- **Leading nonprofit mental health agencies** responsible for treatment in Middlesex County are close allies of NAMI Mass, including, e.g., Vinfen in Cambridge and Advocates, Inc., in Framingham.
- Several **Middlesex County legislators** have shown a strong commitment to mental health and criminal justice reform.